

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07

IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 ERDA-05 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SS-15

STR-04 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02 /124 W

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R 051219Z APR 75 ZFF-2

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8612

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 512

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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NIACT IMMEDIATE FOR USMISSION OECD PARIS PASS US DEL PREPCON

ZFF-2 FOR USMISSION OECD PARIS ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: ENERGY: EC HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC ENERGY GROUP MEETING,  
APRIL 4

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1. SUMMARY: THE EC'S HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC ENERGY GROUP MET IN

BRUSSELS ON APRIL 4 FOR A FINAL DISCUSSION PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE PREPCON IN PARIS APRIL 7. CASPARI, EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND MEMBER OF THE EC DELEGATION TO THE PREPCON, TOLD US THAT WHILE THE DISCUSSIONS CONSUMED MUCH TIME, THEY WERE IN FACT NOT VERY CONCLUSIVE. THE MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AGREEMENT ON THE LINE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EC'S OPENING STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC'S HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC ENERGY GROUP (ESTABLISHED BY THE DUBLIN SUMMIT) MET IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 4 IN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF: (A) THE EC REPRESENTATIVE'S OPENING STATEMENT AT THE PREPCON; (B) THE HANDLING OF THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION; (C) PARTICIPATION IN THE PRODUCERS-CONSUMERS CONFERENCE ITSELF; (D) LOCUS FOR THE CONFERENCE; AND (E) THE CONFERENCE AGENDA.

3. THE EC'S OPENING STATEMENT: THE GROUP SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING WHAT SORT OF STATEMENT THE EC REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD MAKE AT THE OPENING PREPCON SESSION ON APRIL 7. CASPARI SAID THAT THE UPSHOT WAS THAT THE STATEMENT BE BRIEF AND "NEUTRAL IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE".

4. RAW MATERIALS: THE EC AD HOC GROUP CONTINUES TO BE OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS ISSUE AS A SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM. IF THE PRODUCERS AND LDSS PRESS ON THIS ISSUE, CASPARI FEELS IT COULD BE HANDLED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION OR THE ITEM ON COOPERATION ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CASPARI SAID THE GENERAL VIEW WAS THAT THE EC SHOULD AVOID A TOTALLY NEGATIVE POSITION ON THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION; SHOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT THIS WAS BASICALLY INTENDED AS AN ENERGY CONFERENCE; AND THAT TIME WOULD NOT PERMIT DISCUSSION OF RAW MATERIALS. IF PRESSED, THE COMMUNITY WANTS TO HANDLE THE QUESTION AS INDICATED ABOVE. HE COMMENTED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE AD HOC GROUP'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSION WAS NOT VERY SEARCHING ON THIS ISSUE.

5. PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE: CASPARI SAID THAT THE GROUP'S DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT WAS ALSO RAHHER INCONCLUSIVE. IN GENERAL NO ONE WAS ANXIOUS TO TAKE A DEFINITE POSITION PRIOR TO HAVING A CLEARER VIEW OF WHAT OTHERS WOULD PROPOSE. THE CONSENSUS OF VIEW WITHIN THE AD HOC GROUP CON-

TINUES TO FAVOR A CONFERENCE RESTRICTED IN NUMBER, "SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 15 AND 20 PARTICIPANTS". THERE IS A GENERAL DISIRE, PARTICULARLY PRONOUNCED WITH THE FRENCH, TO AVOID A "NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION"; THE FRENCH AND THE COMMISSION ARE PARTICULARLY FIRM IN OPPOSITION TO A BILATERAL FORMAT FOR THE CONFERENCE. CASPARI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HOLD THE LINE ON RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE IF THE UK CONTINUES TO INSIST ON ITS OWN PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THE UK IS STILL PRESSING THIS POINT, AND CASPARI SAID THE BRITISH ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO CONCEDE THEIR DEMAND PRIOR TO THE REFERENDUM. IF THE RESULT OF THE REFERENDUM SHOULD BE NEGATIVE, THERE WILL PERFORCE HAVE TO BE A SEPARATE SEAT FOR THE BRITISH. CASPARI NOTED INCIDENTALLY THAT THE BRITISH HAD ADVOCATED HOLDING THE CONFERENCE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JULY. THUS, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO WAY TO RESOLVE THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ISSUE PRIOR TO THE REFERENDUM.

6. LOCUS OF CONFERENCE: THE QUESTION WAS DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY. THERE WAS SOME SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF VIENNA. THE FRENCH, HOWEVER, ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE MEETING IN PARIS.

7. HANDLING OF AGENDA PROPOSAL AT PREPCON: THE QUESTION WAS POSED AS TO WHETHER THE AGENDA PROPOSAL SHOULD BE PUT FORTH IMMEDIATELY OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE BEST TO LET THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS COME FORWARD. CASPARI SAID THAT THE AD HOC GROUP INCLINED TOWARD HOLDING BACK TO SEE WHAT THE OTHERS PROPOSE AND THEN SEE WHETHER THEIR IDEAS CAN BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADOPTED SATISFACTORILY. THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD PUT FORTH THE AGENDA PROPOSAL FOR THE IEA COUNTRIES WAS ALSO RAISED, BUT THERE WAS NO CLEAR VIEW IN THE GROUP. CASPARI SAID HE ANTICIPATES THAT THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE IRONED OUT AT THE MEETING OF THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD ON MONDAY MORNING. MYERSON

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